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Letter dated 22 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statement on the Darfur peace talks in Abuja issued on 21 December 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Letter dated 22 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the Darfur peace talks in Abuja issued on 21 December 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is closely following the Darfur peace talks in Abuja, the seventh round of which began at the end of November 2005. The Special Representative of the European Union for the Sudan, Pekka Haavisto, has visited the talks twice during this round, and several member States are represented there. The European Union welcomes the progress that has been made in the wealth-sharing commission since the beginning of the round. But it is gravely concerned at the lack of progress on the other two tracks (power-sharing and security arrangements) in the first two and a half weeks. This appeared to be the result of a lack of willingness of the negotiators of the Sudanese Liberation Movement Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, in particular genuinely to engage on these issues. It welcomes the resumption of dialogue between the parties in the power-sharing commission on 19 December, and hopes that this will be the start of real progress. It urges all the parties to show their commitment to peace in Darfur by negotiating positively and flexibly, with a view to reaching a rapid settlement. The European Union reiterates its full support to the African Union-led mediation team and commends it for its tireless efforts in these talks.

The European Union is also deeply concerned by the continuing violations of the ceasefire agreements in Darfur. It calls on all sides to stop such attacks immediately and to refrain from any action that might aggravate the situation in Darfur and in Chad. These continuing ceasefire violations make progress in negotiations on security arrangements at Abuja, and in particular the signature of a new, enhanced ceasefire, especially urgent.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.